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GROUP

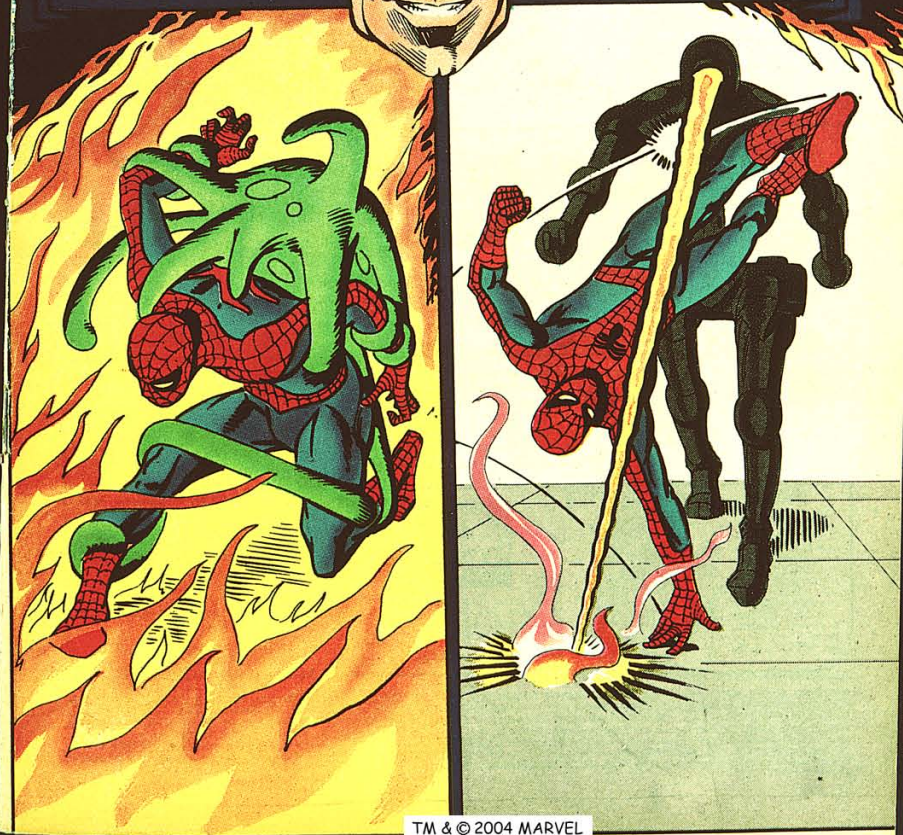
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"ONCE
UPON A
TIME..."

"...THERE
WAS A
ROBOT!"



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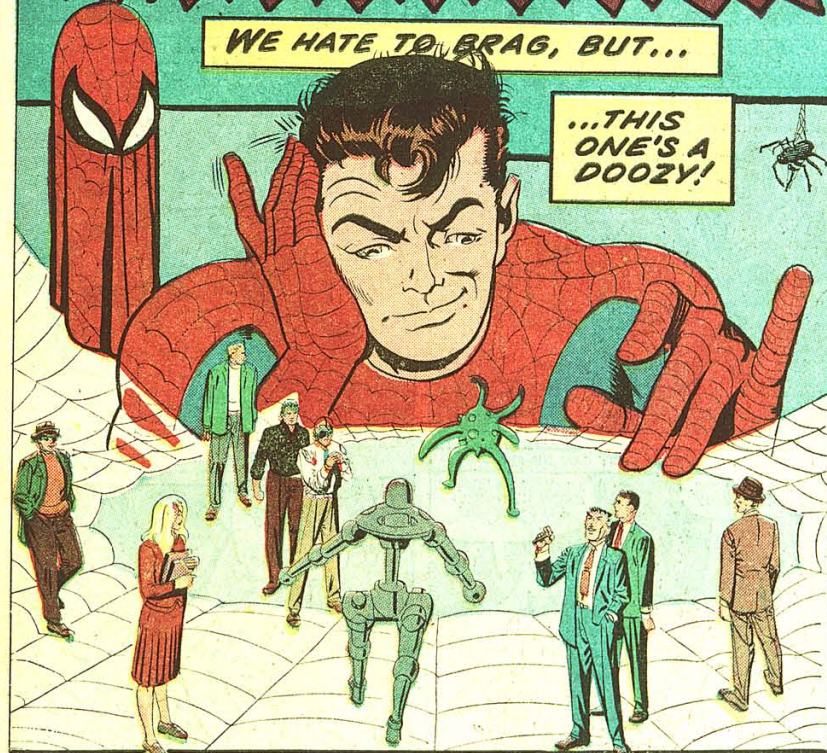
NAME
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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A ROBOT...!"

WE HATE TO BRAG, BUT...

...THIS ONE'S A DOOZY!



EDITED AND WRITTEN
BY:
STAN LEE

PLOTTED AND DRAWN
BY:
STEVE DITKO

LETTERED AND CHERISHED
BY:
ARTIE SIMEK

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BEHIND THE COLD, CLAMMY, CONFINING WALLS OF STATE PRISON, A VOICE UTTERS SIX WELCOME WORDS...

PROFESSOR STROMM, YOUR SENTENCE IS OVER!

AT LAST! I'M FREE!

YOU'VE BEEN A MODEL PRISONER FOR TEN YEARS! GOOD LUCK ON THE OUTSIDE, PROFESSOR!

THANKS!

SURE, I'VE BEEN A MODEL PRISONER. I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT PLAN MY REVENGE ALL THAT TIME!

THEN, NO SOONER DOES PROFESSOR STROMM PUT THE IRON GATES BEHIND HIM, WHEN...

GLAD TO SEE YA, STROMM! I GOT EVERYTHING ALL SET, LIKE YOU WANTED!

DO NOT FORGET YOURSELF, MAX! YOU WILL ALWAYS ADDRESS ME AS PROFESSOR!

BUT, OTHER EYES OBSERVE THE FATEFUL MEETING -- THE EYES OF AN EX-CON TURNED REPORTER, NAMED FOSWELL...

I KNEW MY OLD CELL-MATE WOULD BE GETTING OUT TODAY!

HE'S BEING PICKED UP BY ANOTHER EX-INMATE NAMED MAX YOUNG! THEY MUST HAVE MADE SOME PLANS WHILE IN PRISON!

I WONDER IF HE'S STILL AS HUNGRY FOR REVENGE AS EVER?

THAT GUY WATCHIN' THE PROFESSOR MUST BE A STOOLEE!

THEY'RE HEADING FOR TOWN! I'D BETTER FOLLOW! THERE MAY BE A STORY IN IT FOR ME!

THE PROF'LL BE REAL GRATEFUL TO ME IF I WING 'IM!

HOWEVER, BEFORE A SHOT CAN BE FIRED--

WHOA THERE, SONNY BOY!

IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW IT, THIS IS A NO-NOISE ZONE!

SPIDER-MAN!

AWW--AND I WANTED IT TO BE A SURPRISE!

OKAY, TALK! WHY'D YOU TRY TO VENTILATE FOSWELL?

I SAID TALK!

I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM--HONEST! I JUST HOPED THE PROFESSOR WOULD LET ME JOIN 'IM IF I PROVED I COULD BE USEFUL!

YOU'RE GONNA BE USEFUL, ALL RIGHT! FOLLOW ME, MISTER!

WE'LL USE YOUR CAR TO TAIL THE PROFESSOR AND SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO!

AND, TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET ANY FOOLISH IDEAS--I'LL JUST WEB YOU TO THE SEAT!

BUT, EXACTLY THIRTY SECONDS LATER...

A POLICE CAR! FOLLOWING US! THEY COULDN'T HAVE SEEN ME-- AND YOU'RE NOT SPEEDING!

USE YOUR SPIDER POWER! GET RID OF 'EM, YOU GOTTA!

THWIP!

NOW GET GOING!

THAT LICENSE NUMBER CHECKS OUT, BILL! IT'S A STOLEN CAR!

LET'S WAB 'IM BEFORE HE CAN LEAVE DOWNTOWN!

AND THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE IT! YOU DON'T CATCH ME FIGHTING THE LAW!

BUT WHAT'LL I DO WHEN THEY GET ME??

TOO BAD I LOST FOSWELL, I'M SURE THERE WAS TROUBLE BREWING!

WELL, BUTTERCUP-- I'VE GOT A HUNCH IT'S YOU THEY'RE AFTER--NOT ME!

TRY SINGING A LITTLE SONG!

I'D BETTER CHECK THE DAILY BUGLE! I MIGHT FIND A CLUE THERE AS TO WHAT HE WAS AFTER!

WHEEEEE! THIS SURE BEATS WAITING FOR A BUS!

AND, AT THE BUSTLING OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE, THAT PUBLISHING PARAGON, J. JONAN JAMESON, ALSO WONDERS ABOUT FOSWELL'S WHEREABOUTS...

ANYONE HERE SEEN FOSWELL??

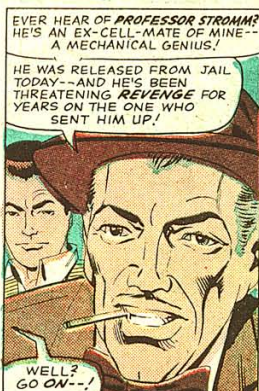
NO, CHIEF!

NOT ME, J. J.

UH UH!

NO, SIR!

NOT A SIGN OF 'IM, BOSS!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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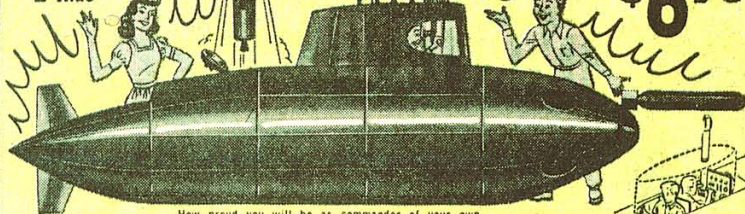
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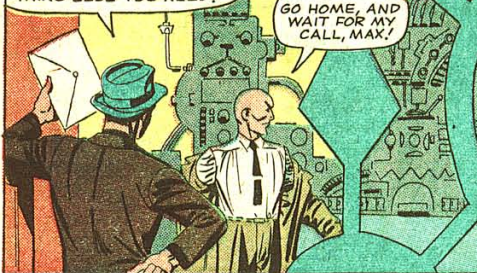
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NOW, LET'S SWITCH OUR SCENE TO THE MAN IN WHOM
EVERYONE SEEMS SO INTERESTED, AS WE VISIT THE
WELL-EQUIPPED HIDEOUT OF PROFESSOR STRAHM...

I BOUGHT ALL THE GADGETS
YOU WANTED WITH THE
DOUGH YOU HAD STASHED
AWAY, PROFESSOR! ANY-
THING ELSE YOU NEED?

NO! THIS IS PERFECT!
I WILL NOT NEED YOU
AGAIN UNTIL THE ROBOT
IS FINISHED!

GO HOME, AND
WAIT FOR MY
CALL, MAX!



FOR TEN YEARS I DREAMED OF THIS
MOMENT! I DREAMED OF GETTING
MY REVENGE ON THE MAN WHO
CHEATED ME OUT
OF MY INVENTIONS!

AS HE HAS RUINED
MY LIFE, SO SHALL
I RUIN HIM!



AND, WHILE THE PROFESSOR
PLOTS, PETER PARKER HEADS
FOR SCHOOL, AS USUAL...

I STILL AM MAD AT ME?
WELL, THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY TO FIND
OUT...



HI, GWEN!
WE'RE BOTH
HEADING FOR
THE SAME
CLASS--MIND
IF JOIN
YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING, MR.
PARKER--
SLUMMING?
USUALLY
YOU'RE TOO
STUCK UP TO
SAY HELLO
TO ANYONE!



WELL, AT LEAST
I'M NOT A
TEMPERAMENTAL
FEMALE WHO
DROOLS OVER A
FELLA ONE DAY
AND THEN ACTS
LIKE AN ICICLE
TO HIM THE NEXT!



EVEN IF YOU
ARE E.S.U.'S
NEWEST SCIENCE
SCHOLARSHIP
WHIZ--KID,
NOBODY TALKS
TO ME THAT
WAY...



C'MON, GWEN
--SIMMER
DOWN! LET'S
BURY THE
HATCHET,
HUH?

YOU THINK YOU
CAN SAY WHAT
YOU WANT TO
ME, AND THEN
--OWWWW!

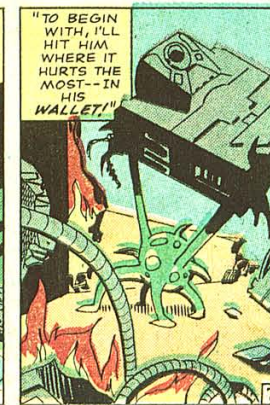
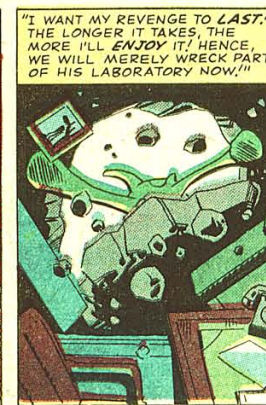
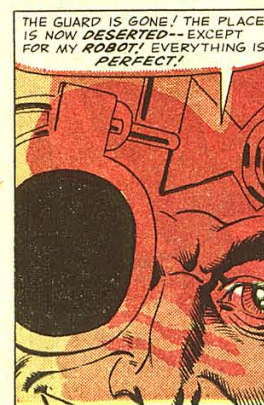
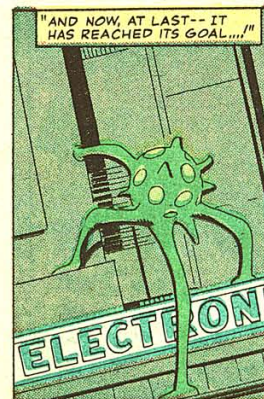
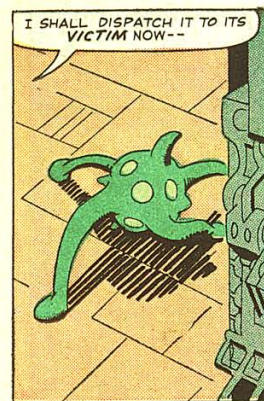


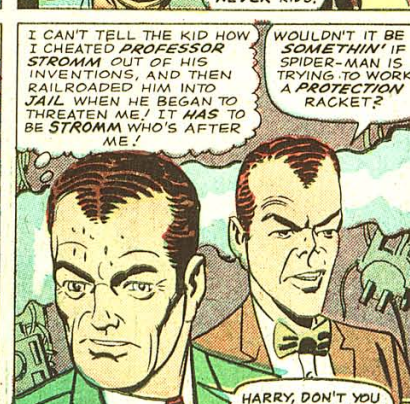
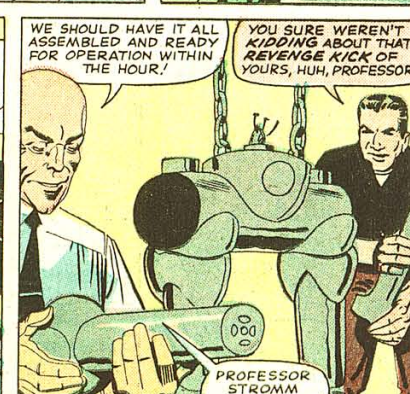
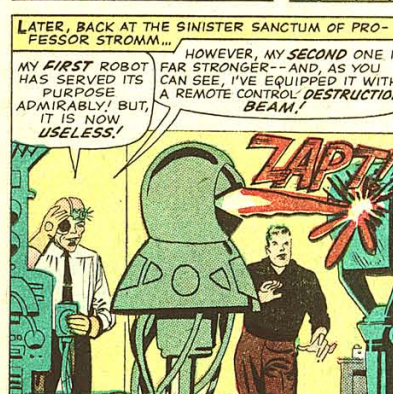
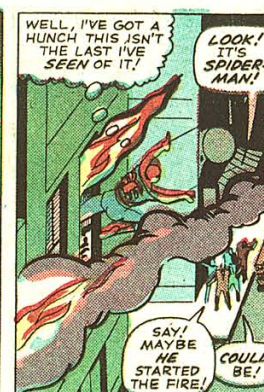
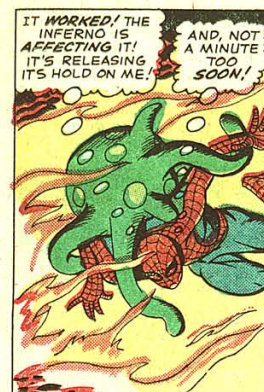
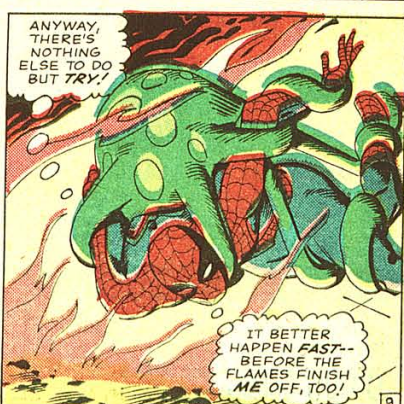
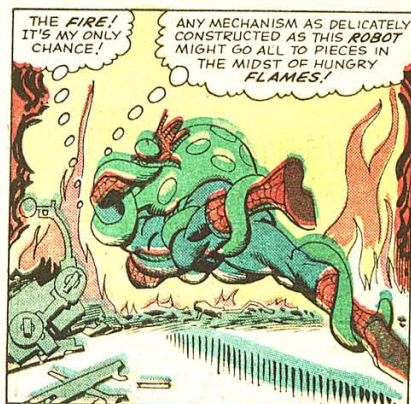
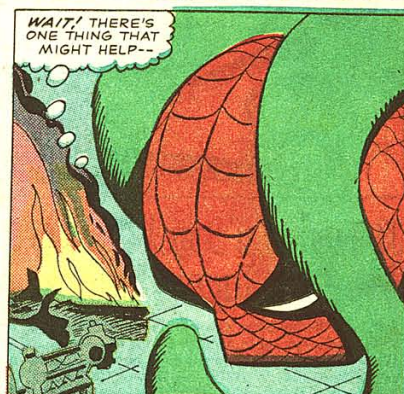
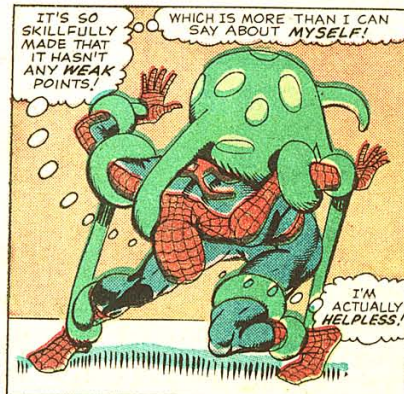
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON THERE!
I SAW THAT, PARKER!

I KNOW, I KNOW! THOSE
BEADY, LITTLE, IT-LIKE
EYES OF YOURS NEVER
MISS A TRICK, FLASH!



I'LL MAKE
YOU EAT
THOSE
WORDS, YOU
PUNK!







AT THAT MOMENT, HIS NOSE FOR NEWS TWITCHING UP A STORM, JOLLY JONAH JAMESON ENTERS OUR SCENE...

... WAS AT OUR CLUB WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS!

DON'T WORRY, NORMAN-- SPIDER-MAN WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

WE'RE NOT SURE HE'S THE ONE, JONAH!



I'M SURE--AND J. JONAH JAMESON IS NEVER WRONG ABOUT SUCH THINGS!

I SUPPOSE YOUR INSURANCE WILL COVER THE DAMAGE, EH?

YES, BUT IT LOOKS BAD! IF THE ATTACKS CONTINUE, THEY MIGHT RENEW MY INSURANCE!

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

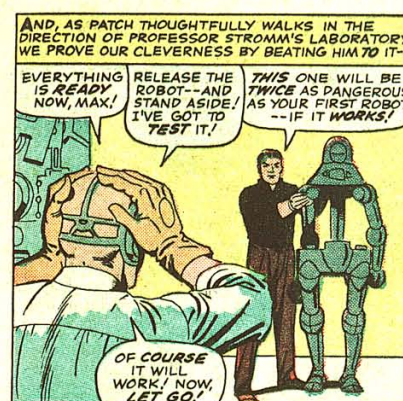


THAT'S A SMART BOY YOU'VE GOT, NORMAN! I LIKE THE WAY HE SUMS UP A SITUATION! HE'LL GO FAR!

HE SHOULD! HE SHOULD!

WELL, IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR A FELLOW CLUB MEMBER--

I'LL CALL YOU IF I NEED YOU, JONAH!



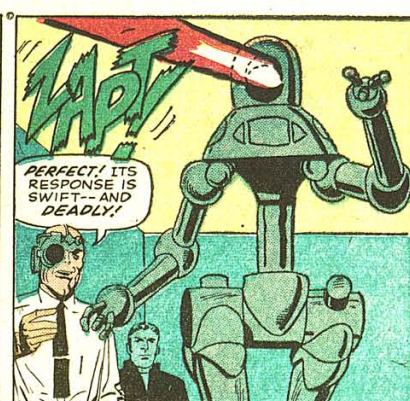
AND, AS PATCH THOUGHTFULLY WALKS IN THE DIRECTION OF PROFESSOR STROMM'S LABORATORY, WE PROVE OUR CLEVERNESS BY BEATING HIM TO IT--

EVERYTHING IS READY NOW, MAX!

RELEASE THE ROBOT--AND STAND ASIDE. I'VE GOT TO TEST IT!

THIS ONE WILL BE TWICE AS DANGEROUS AS YOUR FIRST ROBOT--IF IT WORKS!

OF COURSE IT WILL WORK! NOW, LET GO!



PERFECT! ITS RESPONSE IS SWIFT--AND DEADLY!



MEANWHILE, BLITHELY SWINGING OVER THE SOMNAMBULANT CITY, WE FIND...

THE CHARACTER FOSWELL REFERRED TO MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT NUTTY ROBOT.

I'D BETTER KEEP TABS ON OL' FOSSY!



AND, SPEAKING OF THE ELUSIVE MR. FOSWELL...

I'LL BE ABLE TO PICK UP MORE INFORMATION IN MY IDENTITY AS PATCH, THE UNDERWORLD STOOIE!

I'VE GOT TO LEARN WHERE PROFESSOR STROMM IS HIDING OUT!



THEN, NO SOONER HAS PATCH DEPARTED, WHEN AN UNINVITED CALLER ARRIVES...

JUST MY LUCK! HE KNEW I HAD MY SPIDER-TRACER CLOTHES!

I WONDER IF HE HAD MY HAT?

WELL, MAYBE I CAN STILL SPOT HIM SOMEHOW!



WHILE, OUTSIDE THE LAB...

ONE THING'S FOR SURE--PATCH ISN'T MERELY SIGHT-SEEING! HE'S AFTER SOMETHING HERE! BUT--WHAT?

IT COST ME PLENTY, BUT I LEARNED THAT STROMM IS HOLED UP SOMEWHERE IN THIS AREA...



YOU! STAY WHERE YOU ARE! DON'T TURN AROUND! DON'T EVEN MOVE!

I FOUND HIM!

A BUILT-IN DOOR--HIDDEN IN THE WALL! VERRRRY INTERESTING!



THIS IS LIKE WATCHING "THE MAN FROM UCLE"--ON A LIFE-SIZE TV SCREEN!

NO SWEAT, PROFESSOR! JUST SOME BUM SNOOPING AROUND! IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW!

YOU WANT ME TO BRING 'IM IN? OKAY!



A SHORT TIME LATER, IN ONE OF THE SEEDIER SECTIONS OF TOWN...

WHAT'S GOIN' ON, CHARLIE? I HEARD ANYTHING NEW LATELY?

NO! AND EVEN IF I SPILL IT TO A PUNK LIKE YOU!

I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T! BUT THERE ARE OTHERS HERE WHO WILL--FOR A PRICE!



WHILE, JUST OUTSIDE THE SMOKY SALOON...

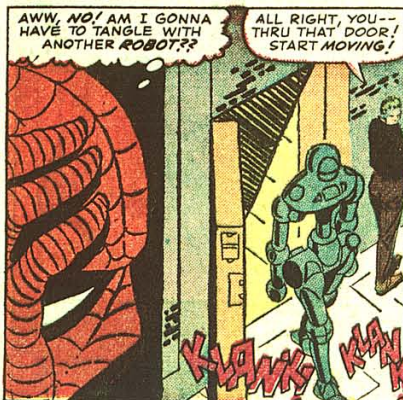
NOTHING SO FAR! ALL I'M GETTING IS HEARTBURN FROM HANGING UPSIDE-DOWN SO LONG!

WHOOPS! LOOK WHO'S THERE!



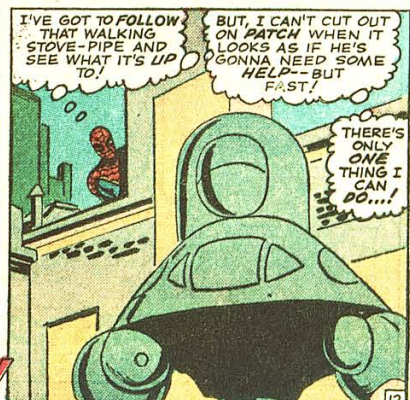
IT'S THAT STOOIE--PATCH! MIGHT AS WELL TAIL AFTER HIM TILL I CAN GET A LEAD ON FOSWELL!

I KNEW I'D LEARN SOMETHING! BUT FIRST I'LL CHECK IT OUT BEFORE I CALL THE COPS!



AWW, NO! AM I GONNA HAVE TO TANGLE WITH ANOTHER ROBOT??

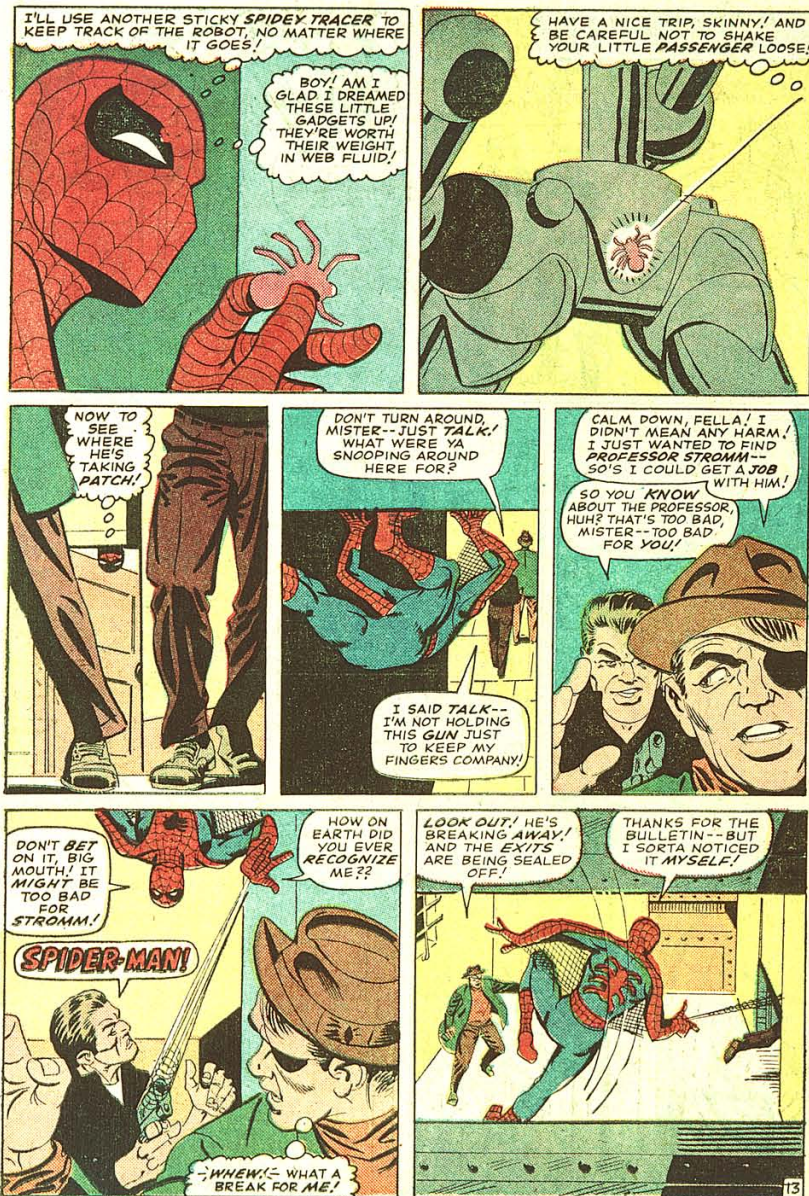
ALL RIGHT, YOU--THRU THAT DOOR! START MOVING!



I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THAT WALKING STOVE-PIPE AND SEE WHAT IT'S UP TO!

BUT, I CAN'T CUT OUT ON PATCH WHEN IT LOOKS AS IF HE'S GONNA NEED SOME HELP--BUT FAST!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO...



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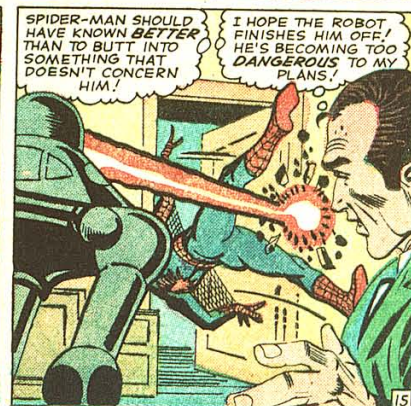
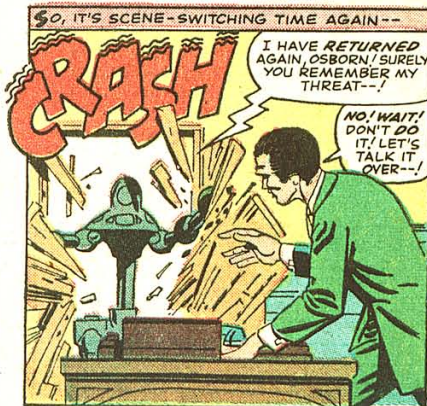
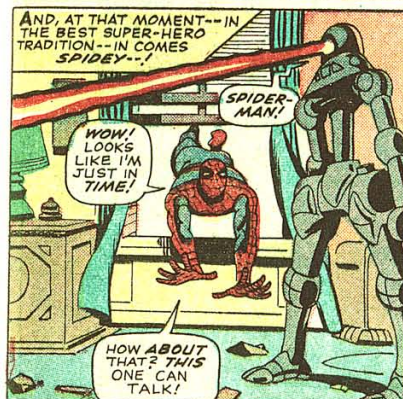
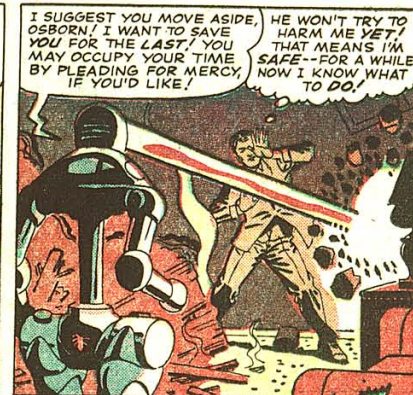
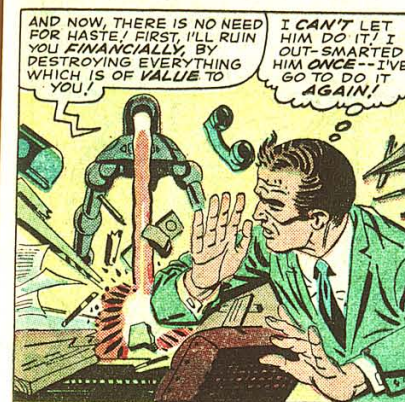
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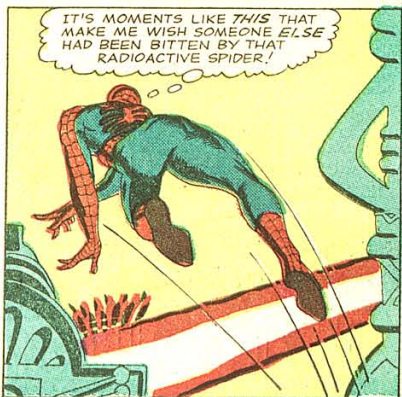
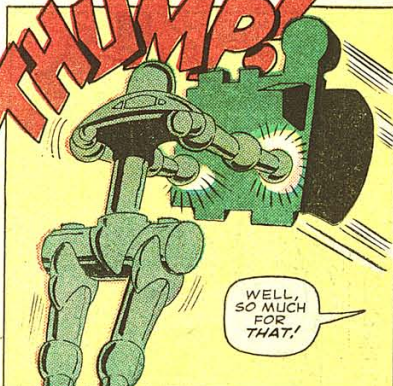
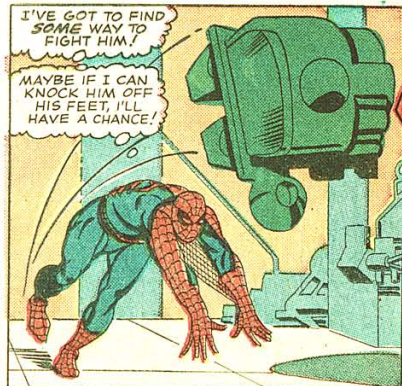
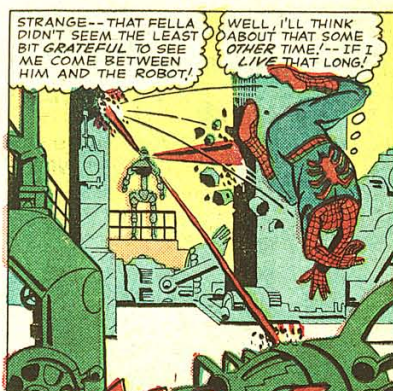
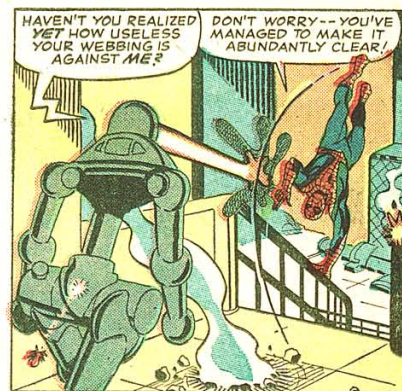
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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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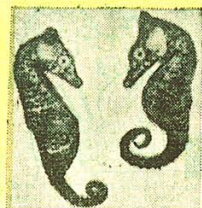
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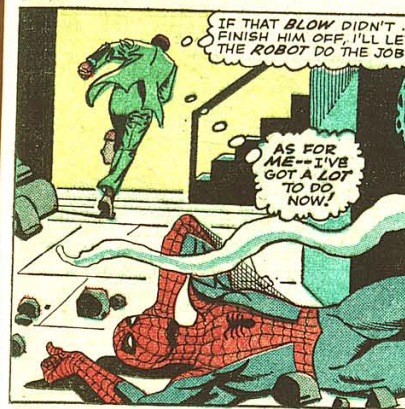
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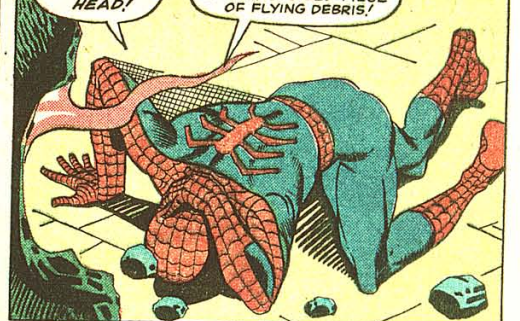
IF THAT BLOW DIDN'T FINISH HIM OFF, I'LL LET THE ROBOT DO THE JOB!
AS FOR ME--I'VE GOT A LOT TO DO NOW!



SOME POISONOUS VAPOR MUST HAVE GOTTEN HIM! HALF THE CONS IN PRISON WILL CELEBRATE WHEN THE NEWS GETS OUT!



BUT, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH OSBORN GOT AWAY! I'LL DESTROY HIS PLANT WHILE HE'S GONE--JUST AS I'D PLANNED TO DO!



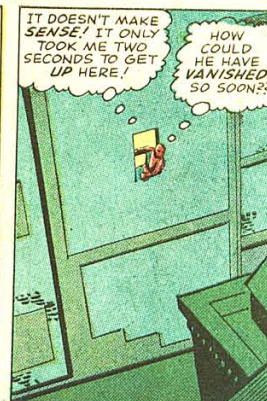
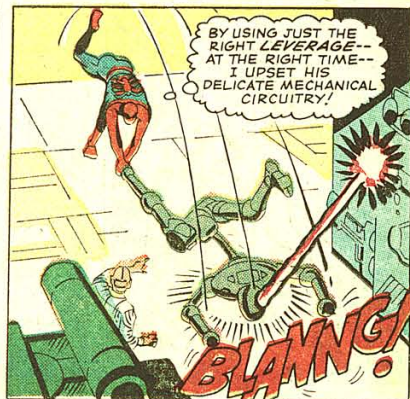
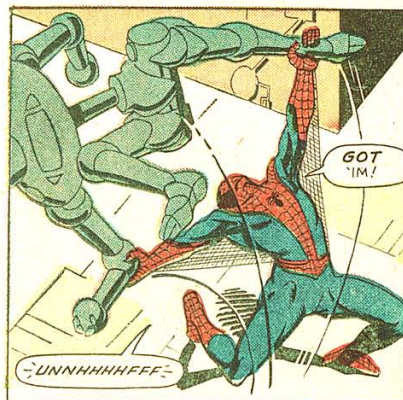
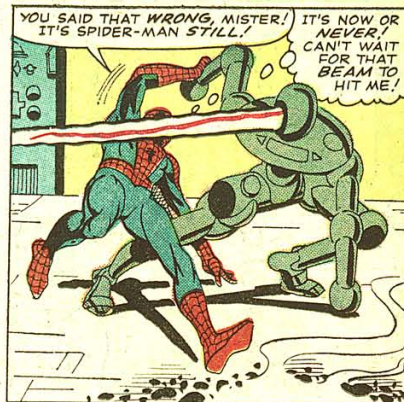
LATER, AFTER THE RUMBLING ROBOT HAS FINALLY CLANKED OFF INTO THE NIGHT--
-WHEEEEOOOO! MY ACHIN' HEAD!
I MUST HAVE BEEN HIT BY A KING-SIZED PIECE OF FLYING DEBRIS!



BUT, I WONDER WHY THE ROBOT DIDN'T FOLLOW UP HIS ADVANTAGE?
THE ANSWER MUST BE THAT HE THOUGHT I WAS DEAD.
IF SO, HERE'S WHERE THAT METAL-SKINNED MISTAKE STARTS BELIEVING IN GHOSTS!



I WAS RIGHT! THERE HE GOES NOW!
I'VE GOTTA SWING THRU THAT STEEL DOOR BEFORE IT SLAMS SHUT!





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MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

GREATER, GROOVIER, GOOFIER GOODIES THAN EVER, GATHERED FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF MARVELDOM!

HOW ABOUT THAT! MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS is such a thunderous sensation that you've been clamoring for more of the same! Well, you know us! We're not gonna leave you faithful fanatics crying in the streets, and so—we're planning to make our former annual mag—**MARVEL TALES**—also a bi-monthly, just like M.C.I.C.I. We haven't set an on-sale date for it yet, but keep watching this column—and your newsstands... it won't be long now! No, no—don't embarrass us with profuse thanks—we're glad to do it—it's a pleasure—being big kids at heart, we love playing with glue pots and scissors, and cutting up old mags and pasting them down again with tender loving care! And, yknow something? We enjoy looking at those old neo-classics of a few years back ourselves! It's a blast to compare the stories and art with today's towering triumphs! Talk about nostalgia—wow!

ITEM: Remember us promising you a list of famous disc jockeys who are full-fledged Marvelites? Some of you may have thought we were putting you on! Well, here's the living proof, pussycat! Check the following list and see which playful platter-spinners are in YOUR neck of the woods, and then—if you're ready with it—drop 'im a congratulatory note, as one bullpen buddy to another. They'll get a real kick out of hearing from a fellow Marvel madman, and you'll realize once again that we kiddeth thee not! (By the way, if your favorite d.j. hasn't yet joined our rollickin' ranks, a few frenzied letters from some frantic fans will probably make 'im realize what he's missin'! Anyway, it's the least we can do, since mighty Marvel's taking over the whole chicken-scratchin' world! And now, let us doff our hats as we reverently read the following names with rare and rapturous respect. (In alphabetical order, natch!)

PAUL DREWWQXI—Atlanta
JERRY G.WKYC—Cleveland
ARNIE GINSBERG, WMEX—Boston
RUSS KNIGHTKILT—Houston
STEVE NICOLET, KPOI—Honolulu
PAT O'DAYKJR—Seattle
DICK PURTANWKRN—Detroit
JOHNNY RABBITT, XKOK—St. Louis
JOEY REYNOLDS, WKBW—Buffalo
ART ROBERTSWLS—Chicago
RICK SHAWWQAM—Miami
GARY STEVENS, WMCA—New York

Welcome aboard, tiger! You're one of us now—and there's not a dry eye left in the bullpen!

DIDJA KNOW? The world-famous movie writer/director, FEDERICO FELLINI, dropped in to visit the gang at the bullpen last Nov. 3rd! It was a big thrill for us! Marvel madmen and madwomen the same goes for Signor Fellini! He really seems to dig our mags, and we spent a wonderful couple of hours showing him around and swapping stories! So, the next time someone gives you a disdainful look when you mention being a Marvel Marcher, you might just casually mention the kinda company you're in! (Not to mention the countless college clichés thrust through the free world

who are forming Merry Marvel Campus Chapters faster than we can keep track of 'em!)

STRICTLY PERSONAL: At last it can be told! THE REAL NAME of admirable ADAM AUSTINI! Most of you newer readers won't recognize it, but those of you who remember us from the days of our former triumphs will instantly remember who he is—in fact, some of you have already guessed his identity! Anyway, to end the suspense, let's bid farewell to A.A., and welcome gallant GENE COLAN to the fold, oh all his glory! Gene did sci-fi yarns, westerns, war tales, and just about everything you can think of years ago for Marvel—and, just between us, he's better today than ever!

ITEM: Don't dare miss the first guest appearance in months of your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man! He's co-starred in DAREDEVIL #16, on sale the beginning of March—and you'll stand up and cheer when you see the brilliant interpretation that jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA gave to our favorite web-spinner! It's one of the high-spots of an already sensation-packed comic season!

THE WRAP-UP: Some loyal Marvelites have expressed concern over the fact that, although we were once tolerant of our competition, we now seem to be openly critical of them—and we feel we owe you an explanation for this definite change of policy. In a nutshell, the situation is this: As you know, Marvel has spent years trying to upgrade the art of comic magazines—for, an art it truly is, every bit as much as the cinema, the legitimate stage, or any other form of creative expression. We don't reject competition—indeed, we welcome it. But, we DO resent shabby, carelessly-produced, badly-written and -drawn, comic scienceless IMITATIONS of our Marvel mags—imitations which are callously lacking in quality, and which are produced for the sole purpose of making a fast profit in the very field which they themselves are helping to keep at the bottom of the artistic totem pole! We have been flooded with indignant letters from readers who have bought issues of the various Brand Echhs now on sale and have been shocked at the undisguised effort these opportunists have made to confuse the public into believing that their titles are the same as Marvel's! One such company has gone so far as to change its name and trademark so that the reader might think it truly IS a Marvel publication! In these so-called competitors would expend an equal amount of creative effort on the CONTENT of their mags, we'd have no objection, but all they are doing is confusing the public, and giving new ammunition to those who choose to downgrade comics! That is our position! And this is our promise to you—no matter what befalls, no matter how rocky the road ahead may be, your staff here at the Marvel bullpen will never compromise with quality! Our stories, our art, our lettering, and our coloring will always be the best that our money can obtain—the finest that dedicated craftsmen can produce! Though the newsstands grow ever more cluttered

with inferior imitations, the mighty Marvel magazines will still stand out like shining beacons, guiding you to the finest in reading entertainment! That is our promise, our pledge, our credo! You've made us what we are today—you deserve nothing less! 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #51: This one features the Thing, more daring and dramatic than you've ever seen him before! And you won't soon forget—the Changeling!

AVENGERS #28: At last! The return of Giant-Man! But—wait'll you see him now! A different costume! A different name! Even a new and different villain! Wow!

X-MEN #20: Not one—not two—but THREE great old-time foes return to menace our madcap mutants! Lucifer! Unus! The Blob! What more need we say?

DAREDEVIL #16: This is the big one! The Man Without Fear battles your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man to a fare-thee-well... and adventure! It will never be the same!

THOR #128: We had to do it! We've had Pluto warming up in the wings for months! For sheer power, for stark villainy, you've never seen his like! And when he meets Thor and Hercules—look out!

STRANGE TALES #145: If anyone can beat Nick Fury, Agent of Shield, the Druid might do it! As for Doc Strange, he has a surprise or two up his sleeve, as always!

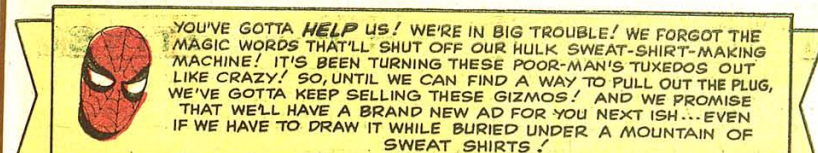
SUSPENSE #78: Never has Iron Man reached greater heights of glory than now, in his battle with Ultron! While Captain America meets Nick Fury in the tale you've been waiting for!

ASTONISH #80: Even if Sub-Mariner can find a way to defeat the Behemoth, there is a greater danger awaiting him! But, how about the Hulk? He's torn between Tyrannus (remember him?) and the Mole Man (likewise!)

SGT. FURY #30: This time Fury's fightin' fanatics do their howlin' in sunny Italy—only with the trouble they're in now, so far as to change its name and trademark so that the reader might think it truly IS a Marvel publication! In these so-called competitors would expend an equal amount of creative effort on the CONTENT of their mags, we'd have no objection, but all they are doing is confusing the public, and giving new ammunition to those who choose to downgrade comics! That is our position! And this is our promise to you—no matter what befalls, no matter how rocky the road ahead may be, your staff here at the Marvel bullpen will never compromise with quality! Our stories, our art, our lettering, and our coloring will always be the best that our money can obtain—the finest that dedicated craftsmen can produce! Though the newsstands grow ever more cluttered

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Dear Stan,

I'm a member of the M.M.M.S. (who isn't?), and I know it is my duty to grind any Marvel critic to dust with the power of the Hulk. But, for the good of Marvel, I must point out an inconsistency in your peerless epics. To wit: every time you introduce a new villain, he ALMOST defeats the hero—or heroes. But when said villain returns, in all subsequent issues, he has less strength, and the story less action. Doctor Octopus is an example. When he first appeared, he clobbered Spidey without trying—if Spidey hadn't managed to fuse two of Doc Ock's arms, it would have been the Web-head's end. But, in SPIDER-MAN #32, it took Spidey a short 10 panels to finish the doctor. So... please don't let the bad guys degenerate into cream-puffs. In the eternal words of Daniel Kiofmer—"Roses are red, Violets are blue; I'll take Marvels and leave nothing for you." Larry Rizzutti, 177 Grove Mt. Kisco, N.Y.

An award-winning verse if ever we heard one, Larry! But, don't worry, lad—our villains aren't turning into cream-puffs—it's just that Spidey gets more battle-wise and more skillful with each passing day! In fact, he may some day be a match for Artie Simex himself!

Dear Stan,

As I was sitting in my living room after finishing a MARVELous dinner, and watching my boob tube, I got an interesting surprise. My co-idol (with Spidey) Soupy Sales was wrapping up his show with a mat-of-the-door scene. In it, the man knocked at the door and asked Soupy for help. Why? He said, "My wife thinks she's Spider-Man!" I thought to myself, "It's got to be someone else." The bit continues with Soupy asking the man why he didn't take his wife to a psychiatrist. "Because," says the man, "I can't get her off the cardboard!" He then swings in one of your fantabulous pin-ups of Spidey, mounted on cardboard. It shows how widespread your fame is. After all, how many magazines get plugged by one of the country's biggest teenage idols?

Chris Corley, 1160 Burke Ave.
New York, N.Y.

That's only the beginning, Chris! Wouldn't you be surprised to see L.B.J. standing in front of a Marvel pin-up at his next press conference? Well, just between us, tiger—so would we!

Dear Stan,

Spidey used to be number one on my list, but now I'll take the F.F. any day over Mr. Web-spinner. I have enough worries of my own without seeing Spidey get so psyched-out each month. First, it's Betty; then Aunt May—next, it'll be mid-term exams. Why don't you just turn Juggernaut loose on Spidey and get it over with? That'll calm him down. Your SPIDER-MAN mag is degenerating to the point where it is no longer fraught with the splendor and the charged essence of a super-hero thriller. Recently, poor Peter has been more of a tragic hero. Please restore Spidey to the level of greatness he achieved, for example, in his first battle with the Scorpion. Why can't he get squared-away with Betty, buy Aunt May a nice apartment in a condominium, and settle down to some good old life-and-death struggles?

Bill Dargan, 3502 Vista Drive
Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Great idea, Billy boy! Spidey vs. Juggernaut! Why didn't I see that of that? And to make you happy, we'll

let it take place in that condominium you want Pete to buy! Howzat? But, don't hold your breath waiting—it may take a while for us to work out some small details (like trying to remember who Juggy is, and in which mag we've previously used him!). As for you preferring the F.F. to Spidey—you can't make us mad! We sort-of have a vested interest in that one, too—remember?

Dear Stan,

Congratulations! SPIDER-MAN #33 was indeed "one of the most thoroughly justifying SPIDER-MAN sagas (we) have ever thrilled to," just like you said! I want to congratulate everyone credited with this marvelous issue. The art, which had dropped below peak excellence, was again at its original best. The story was one of the most dramatic and action-filled ever introduced into the pages of SPIDER-MAN. The lettering was better than usual—I couldn't find one mistake! I have only one request. Let Spidey reveal his secret identity. To whom? Why, to Dr. Connors, of course! He is the only one that I have ever seen in any Spidey adventure trustworthy enough for this responsibility. Also, it wouldn't put him in danger, since no one would have to know (except us!). I missed him as the Lizard-Man, but what I have seen of him in the last two issues convinces me that he is indeed one of Spider-Man's friends. How about it?

Fred Weiss, 876 S. Williams
Denver, Colo.

Poll time! Waddaya say, frantic ones? (A) Do you want to see more of Doc Connors (the Lizard-Man of ish #6, and more recently seen in #33)? And (B) Should Spidey divulge his secret identity to Connors? Let us know as soon as you can, because we hate to keep Freddie waiting!

Dear Stan,

There are no words in the English language to describe SPIDER-MAN #32. The suspense kept me on edge from the first page. Of course, every loyal Spidey fan knows that the transfusion referred to on page 4, panel 7, was from SPIDER-MAN #10, one of your greatest masterpieces. You guys had better start sending some annuals over here for us Canadians. I don't think I can be missing MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS,

Paul McLoughlin
Canadian Forces, Soest, Germany

We can't bear anyone missing it either, Paul! Mostly because we're greedy! We've told our distributor to send a whole hoo-doo of copies your way on the double, because any guy who can remember the two-year-old ish number of Spidey's transfusion deserves nothing but the very best!

Dear Stan,

It's after three in the morning and I should have been in bed four hours ago, but with my schedule I may not get another chance to write, and I have to comment on the latest issue of Spidey—"The Final Chapter." I'm quite sure that you'll get complaints on the story. Spidey saves himself and Aunt May by efforts which are not only super-human, but also super-Spider-Man. People will say that you've cheated, that you've filched Brand X's old trick of making the super-hero more super when it suits you, no matter how deus-ex-machina it makes the plot. But, here's one loyal fan who knows better. Couple of years ago I met

a girl and fell in love with her instantly. I didn't know why, then. I do now. She had a particularly tough childhood. Hundreds of times she could have given in to pain, fear, self-pity. But when I look into her eyes, I see a strength, an integrity to herself that, quite literally, won't quit. I stand in awe. After seeing a world full of whiners and quitters, you get sort-of used to it—it seems natural—and you feel astonished—actually stunned—to see something so beautiful you want to laugh and cry and go around telling everyone that you found what it is that makes life worthwhile. And then it dawned on me, that to be able to see and appreciate that integrity, one had to be capable of it oneself. So I have an idea what Spidey has been going through—and Namor, and Iron-Man, and some of the others. And I know that, while it may be fantasy, at the same time the stories are true, because there are people like that! Thanks, Stan. I wish there were a few more people like you guys around—the world's a little short on heroes these days.

Phil Castro, 3177 W. 5th St.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Well, Phil, although we haven't personally performed too many super-heroic feats lately, we appreciate your kind sentiments, your good wishes, and your flair for the dramatic. Thanks, fella.

Dear Stan,

We have read all of Spidey's mags, and you have told us about his uncle (already dead) and his aunt (gravely ill), but you have never told us anything about his PARENTS. Did they die? Did Pete have any sisters? How are we supposed to know? Well, it's up to you what you write, but we hope you mention Pete's folks in some ish. At least show us what they looked like—or what they look like! Also... how many yellow sweaters does Pete have? He always wears a yellow one, and always a DIFFERENT one. Anyway, go finish next ish. The sooner the better, right? Richard Gonzalez and John Munoz, 2102 Kearney Laredo, Texas

Right, amigos! We kinda dig your idea of filling Marveldom in with the facts concerning Pete's family—so, don't be too surprised if we find some way to weave 'em into a future tale... and thanks for the prod!

Dear Stan,

Being a member of the M.M.M.S., I just got the latest Bullpen Bulletin. I like the bulletin idea and wish you would send them out more often—like every month. I can't wait to hear more information on the "movie deal." I hope the M.M.M.S. soon puts out a few more records, sells extra stickers, and has elections. The idea of Marvel stories being reprinted is a good one. Thanks to MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS—I now have a complete Spider-Man file. I wish you would devote some future issues to "golden age" stories. They would sell very well. As for my favorite character, Spider-Man... it would be reasonable to have Aunt May die soon. After her demise, you could have Peter Parker's real parents return. Well, thanks for letting me bend your eyeballs. Yours till the competition come out with mags like Spider-Boy, the Fantastic Four-and-a-Half, and Dareangel, I remain,

Ron Wilshe, 204 Wilson
Clarton, Pa.

Nice hearing from you, Ron, even though you're trying to put the kibosh on poor Aunt May! What if we just lend her to the MILLIE THE MODEL mag for a while? Would that satisfy you, pal?

Dear Stan,

Wow! Did you see what I saw? Soupy Sales with a giant pin-up of Spidey! I've been with you guys for three years, but this really got me! Is Soupy a member of the M.M.M.S.? If so, what's his number? Are his wife and kids members, too? How about the stagehands? Soupy's dog? Do they read the rest of your comics? By the way, I dug ish #33 of SPIDER-MAN. I notice you've been using a lot of full-page pics lately, which is great, 'cause I love 'em. I can't wait until the next issue, with "The Return of Kraven the Hunter." Kraven's a fine villain—I'm glad you're not letting him go to waste.

Philip Palmer, 40 Riverview Ave.
Highland Park, N.J.

We don't let anyone go to waste, Phil! We're even trying to find a use for Irving Forbush! As for ol' Soupy,

we must have received half a zillion letters telling us how he used our wondrous web-spinner in a recent TV skit! We don't know whether Soupy or Spidey has the most fans, but we love ya all!

Dear Stan,

What have you done? All these years, we of Cal Tech have assumed that when the greatest-hero of all time graduated from high school, he would naturally go to the greatest college in the universe—Cal Tech! But—if you weren't the greatest story writer of all time, we'd say you made a grave mistake. EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY?! NO, NO, A THOUSAND TIMES NO!! Look—Spidey wants to go to the best engineering and science school in the country, right? He can win a thousand-dollar scholarship to any school in the country, right? If he leaves town and goes far, far away, maybe absence will make Betty's heart grow fonder, right? Well, we won't be vulgar and mention Cal Tech's eleven Nobel Prize winners, or the fact that Spidey could have all sorts of swingin' adventures in the Los Angeles area (swimming pools, movie stars, escaped movie monsters, the Great Smog Creature, etc.), or the fact that this is the cream of all schools, just as Marvel is the cream of all comics groups, or the fact that the only comics we have in the house library are Marvels. We won't mention those facts because, wonderful, intelligent, discerning people like you can see without being snowed by all this data that C.I.T. is the only place for Spidey. So please, please, PLEASE reconsider! Transfer him, flunk him, kidnap him, transplant all of New York City, do anything, but please get him out here. WE WANT SPIDEY! Naturally, we won't stop reading his stories, even if you don't, because Spidey is too good to pass up, even if he is going to E.S.U.! But really, Cal Tech is the only place for him. By the way, if and when the greatest super-hero of all time comes to the greatest school of all time, be sure he moves into the greatest student house on campus—Page.

The Page House Mob
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, Calif.

Boy! What a sneaky way to get a free plug for your dorm in our letters page, mob! Anyway, don't despair, men—there's still hope! Even if SPIDEY doesn't make it, the day may come when we send the HULK to college—and, if you've still got a vacancy—!

Dear Stan,

I decided to write you after finishing SPIDER-MAN #33 and tell you what I think of my favorite comics character. I have read every one of your mags (and even bought every one) since the conception of the Fantastic Four, which means I have never missed a Web-head adventure. I have watched him grow from a slightly inept, guilt-ridden, eleven-page nothing to a full comic-book-sized hero whose only fault was in his underdeveloped Peter Parker identity, to, in ish #32 and #33, a well-rounded, versatile personality. In ish #33, that infamous snake-in-the-grass, J. Jonah Jameson, says it in the fourth panel of page 18: "What's gotten into Parker? He used to be such a milquetoast! Who wised him up?" Well, J.J., it was life that did it! And life will improve Spider-Man in the future—with an assist from Stan, of course. With but on heart I salute you, Stan, for adding maturity to a character. 'Thou canst do no wrong.

Ken Kollerman, 17-32 166th St.
Whitestone, N.Y.

Thanks, Kenny! Thou knowest Stan can do no wrong! Stan knowests it! We knowest it! Now, if we can only convince his boss! (No, we don't mean a merry Marty Goodman this time! We mean Mrs. Lee!)

NEXT ISH: Warning! It's gonna be a real kookie one! Our extra-powerful super-villain is a grand-nephew, brand-new pussycat! Also, you'll see the mysteriously sinister Mr. Osborn again, as our strange little plot grows ever more absorbing! To sum it up, SPIDER-MAN #38 is gonna be another Marvel Milestone issue, and we'll cry ourselves to sleep if you miss it! So, keep your webs untangled and face front—we'll be looking for you next ish! 'Nuff said!

IS YOUR HAIR GROWING OR GOING?

Stand in front of a mirror. Take a long hard look at the top of your head. Do you have as much hair as one year ago? Do you see any new hair growth?

If your answer is no, it is important that you take steps today to save the hair you now have. If you act now, you may be able to reverse the trend on your head. You may be able to grow new hair faster than it is falling out. Doesn't that make sense to you? Wouldn't you like to look in the mirror a year from now and see more hair on your head than you see now? Why lose your hair if you don't have to?

CAN YOU SAVE YOUR HAIR?

Every year thousands of men and women go bald — needlessly — because of a scalp infection. This scalp infection is called seborrhea. Doctors say that three germ organisms cause seborrhea: staphylococcus albus, pityrosporum ovale, and microbacillus. These germs attack the sebaceous glands and the hair follicles themselves. If not checked, permanent damage is done. The hair follicles atrophy, lose their ability to produce new hairs. The result: premature baldness.

You can easily tell if you are a victim of seborrhea. If you have itchy scalp, dandruff, hair loss, very dry or oily scalp, the chances are that you have seborrhea. Neglect these symptoms and you invite baldness.

Treat your scalp to Ward's Formula. This amazing scalp medicine quickly controls seborrhea and stops the hair loss it causes.

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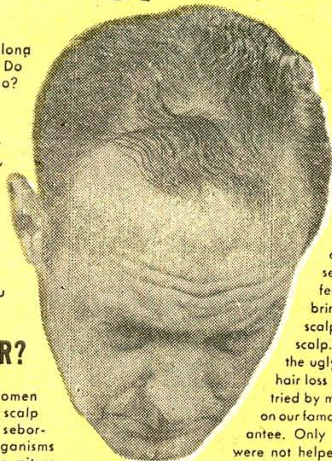
I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
G. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.
I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no dandruff!
W. T. W., Portola, Cal.

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 3 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

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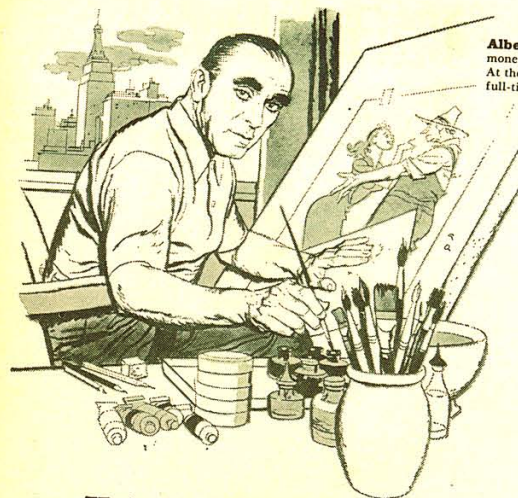
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Some of the People Dorne Has Helped

Herb Smith was a payroll clerk. Soon after he started studying with us, he landed an art job with a large printing firm. This was four years ago; today he's head artist for the same firm.

Don Golemba of Detroit is another. He stepped up from railroad worker to the styling department of a big automobile company—by showing his work with the School. Now he helps design new-car models.

Pat Browning wanted to escape from her dull typing job to something creative. Soon after studying with us, she was promoted to full-time artist with the same firm—at much more money.

With the right training, Wanda Pickulski gave up her typing job

to become fashion artist for a local department store.

Eric Ericson worked in a garage while he studied art at night. Today he is a successful artist, earns seven times as much, and is building a new home for his family.

Long before Albert Dorne started looking for people who like to draw, they came to him for advice and help. Since he alone could help only a few of these people, he called together America's most successful artists—men like Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Stevan Dohanos and Al Parker.

A Plan to Help Others

He said: "All over America, there are people who like to draw, who could be turned into good artists. Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years? I'm suggesting a new kind

of school—a home-study art school that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live."

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they spent several years creating a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, the famous artists developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

Albert Dorne is not surprised by the success of his students. "The art field is growing. We keep getting calls from all over the country, asking us for practical, well-trained students who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs."

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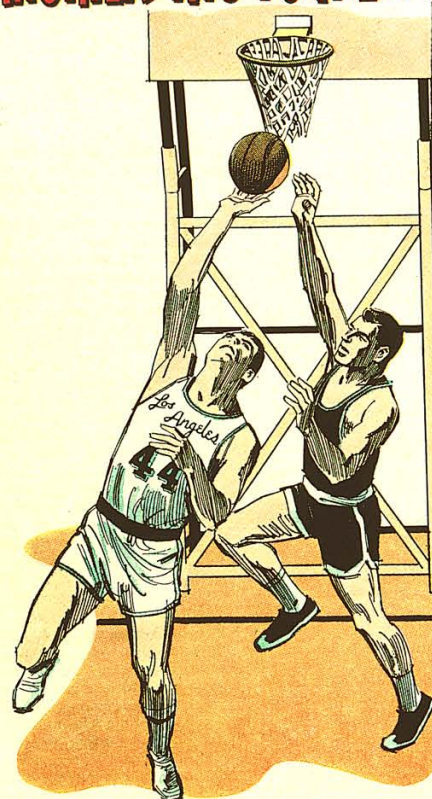
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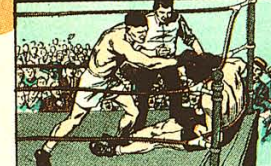
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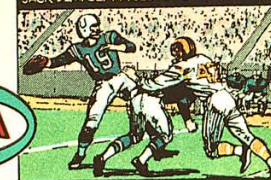
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